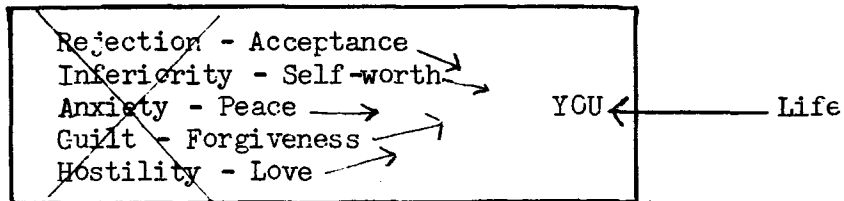


## Keys to Fulfillment: Sanctification - The Image of God Applied

### Introduction

- A. The Christian is a redeemed person.
  - B. We must recognize what the Lord Jesus has done for us, through His redeeming grace, and what He desires to do in and through us.
  - C. The problem area in this matter of implementation is not with God's provision, but with our understanding, motivation, priorities, and perseverance. Too often we live as unfulfilled people because we have well-nigh destroyed the spiritual possibilities of our daily life by disobedience - and then complain of our lack of joy, power, and fruitfulness.
- I. The Biblical Statement: The believer, in the new birth, has been recreated according to the former pattern of the image of God. Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10
- A. This is a restoration in regard to what it means to be - before God - a person, with all the vertical implications of spirituality, value, fellowship, and fulfillment.
  - B. This is a restoration in regard to what it means to be - before God - a person, with all the horizontal implications of spirituality, divinely ordained relationships, enablement, and fulfillment.
- II. The Biblical Explanation.
- A. We must seek to understand and implement this restoration in regard to God.
    - 1. This involves decisions of faith and love to grow in what it means to know God (John 17:3), to obey Him (John 17:6), to fellowship with Him (I John 1:7), and to serve Him (John 17:18).
    - 2. This involves decisions of faith and love to live in harmony with the relationship God has established with us.
      - a. He has chosen to become involved in all the areas of our life. It is vitally important that we recognize this. There are no neutral facets of life or relationships in the believer's life.
      - b. The basis of this salvation relationship is rooted and grounded in God's moral attributes of truth, love, and holiness. If we live out of harmony with these basic standards of life - there is no hope of spiritual success and fulfillment.
  - B. We must seek to understand and implement this restoration in regard to ourselves.
    - 1. This involves decisions of faith and love regarding self-denial and spiritual commitment.

- a. As created in the image of God we were designed to live with all areas of our life and thought revolving about the person of Jesus Christ. He was to be at the very center of life - as our authority, motivation, and goal. Our restoration has reestablished this relationship. In our daily walk with God we must choose to acknowledge Him as our Lord.
  - b. In the Fall we tore God out of the center of our life and placed ourselves there - as our authority, motivation, and goal. This is what it means to be a sinner. All such tendencies in our daily life now - must be thoroughly repudiated.
2. This involves decisions of faith and love regarding the potentiality of this restoration.
- a. Unlimited potentiality for ~~sinfulness~~ . . . for goodness.
  - b. Unlimited potentiality for ~~inability~~ . . . for creativity.
  - c. Unlimited potentiality for ~~unfulfillment~~ . . . for fulfillment.
  - d. Unlimited potentiality for ~~alienation~~ . . . for fellowship.
3. This involves decisions of faith and love regarding a correct interpretation of ourselves and life.



- C. We must seek to understand and implement this restoration in regard to the world.
1. This involves understanding our vulnerability to the temptations, deceptions, pleasures, and goals of the world's culture while always living in harmony with what it means to be separate from the world. Matthew 13:22; John 15:19; 16:33; 17:14,16; Romans 12:1,2; Gal. 1:4; Eph. 2:1-3; James 1:27; 4:4; I John 2:15-17
  2. This involves understanding what it means to be God's prophet, priest, and king in regard to the people of the world and compassionately serving as His example, witness, ambassador, and steward in carrying out the ministry of reconciliation. Exodus 19:5,6; Isaiah 43:10; Matthew 28:18-20; II Cor. 5:17-21; I Peter 2:5,9; 4:10,11; Rev. 1:5,6

### Conclusion

- A. God has designed Christianity so that we can live a successful Christian life.
- B. There is nothing easy about being a successful Christian. This is the hardest life in all the world to live. However, it is the most joyful, the most fruitful, the most fulfilling way to live. God is worthy of all the sacrifice and service that we could ever give to Him.

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